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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
Inventor(s):)	
James F. Zucherman)	
Ken Y. Hsu)	
T. Wade Fallin)	
Henry A. Klyce)	Customer No. 23910
SC/Serial No.:)	
Unknown)	
Filed:)	
Herewith)	
Title: SPINE DISTRACTION IMPLANT AND METHOD)	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

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Matthew A. Mahling (Signature)
Matthew A. Mahling (Name)
Signature Date: October 5, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO CONTINUATION APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)(1)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced continuation case, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the following claims as indicated below. Please cancel claim 1 and add the new claims set forth below. All pending claims are included for completeness.

90. (New) An improved method for stabilizing a spinous process relative to another